



Geography and People

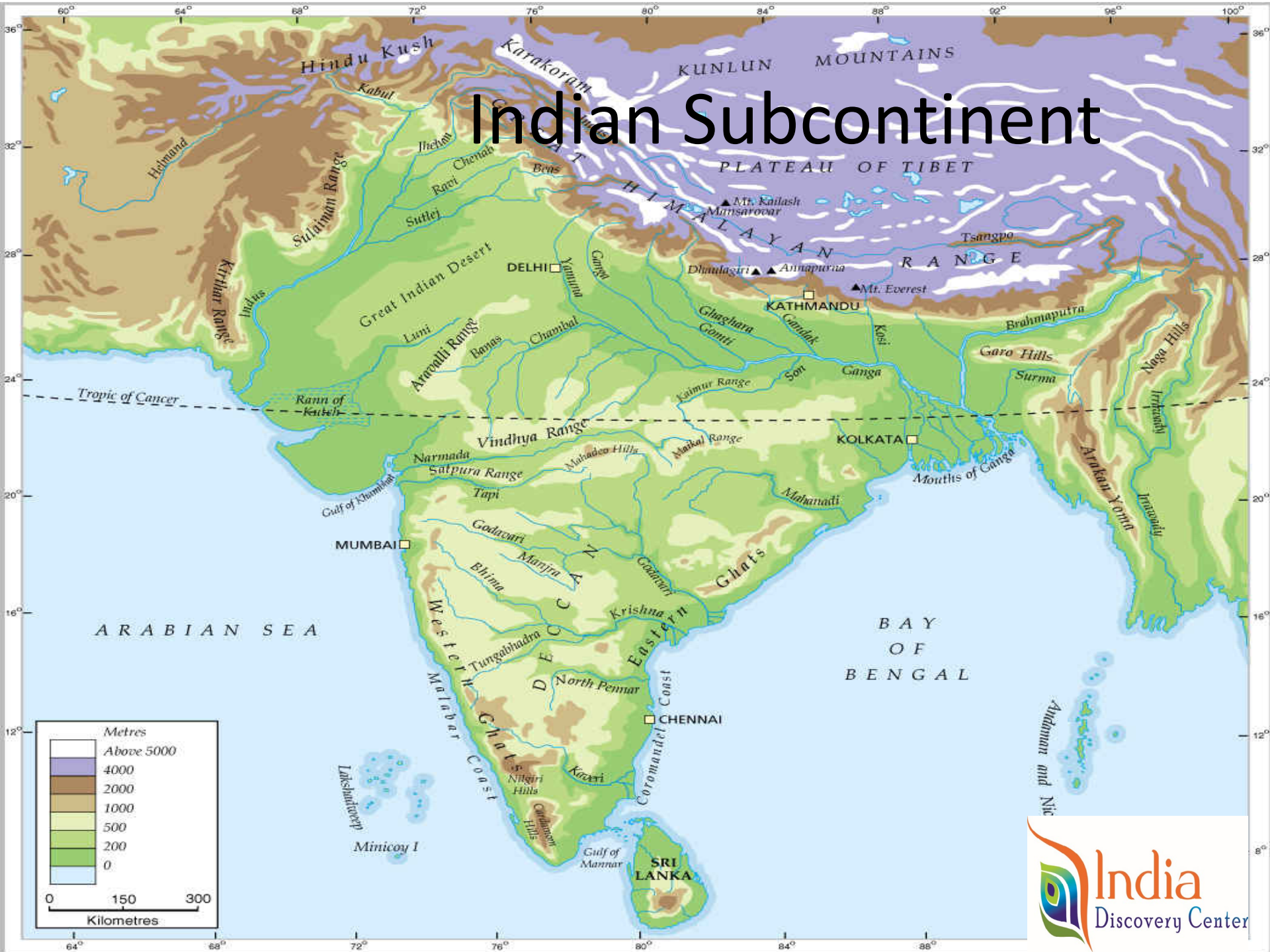
500_{AD} to 1500_{AD}

Hardeep Mann

Geography and People

- **Prosperity**
- **Expansion**
- **Diversity**
- **Self Expression**

Indian Subcontinent



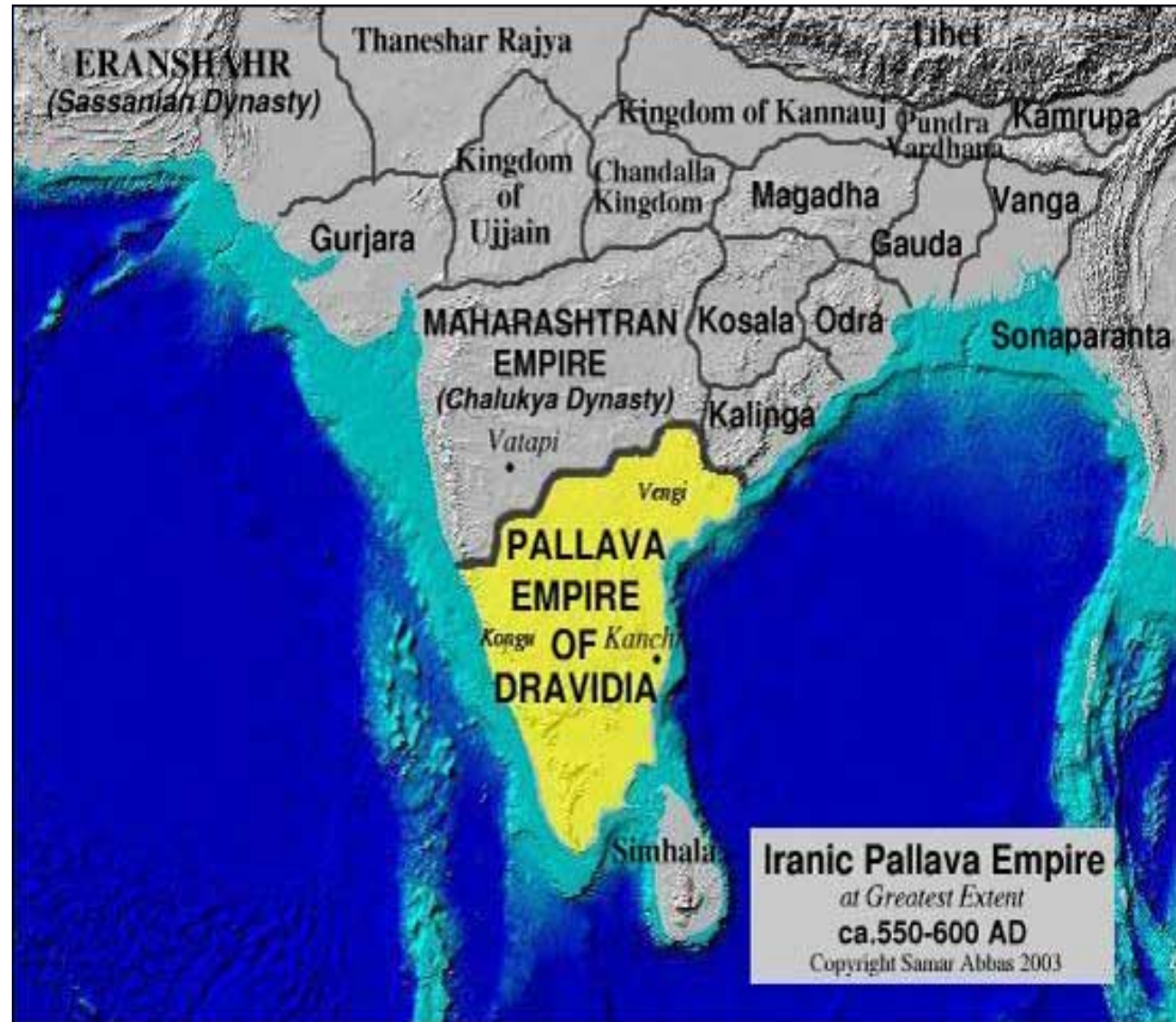
Empires, Kingdoms and Rajya

The Empires, Kingdoms and Rajya were the superstructures in the Indian Subcontinent in this millennium

Versatile and strong in its agrarian and village-based economy, India continuously created wealth via food production and trade

Village economy was a hallmark of the Indian subcontinent

The Kings and Chieftains in the internal and external regions were constantly struggling with each other for state power and surplus wealth



500AD-700AD: Arabs, Hephthalites

North and North West were the entry points for Invading Empires.

By Land and Sea

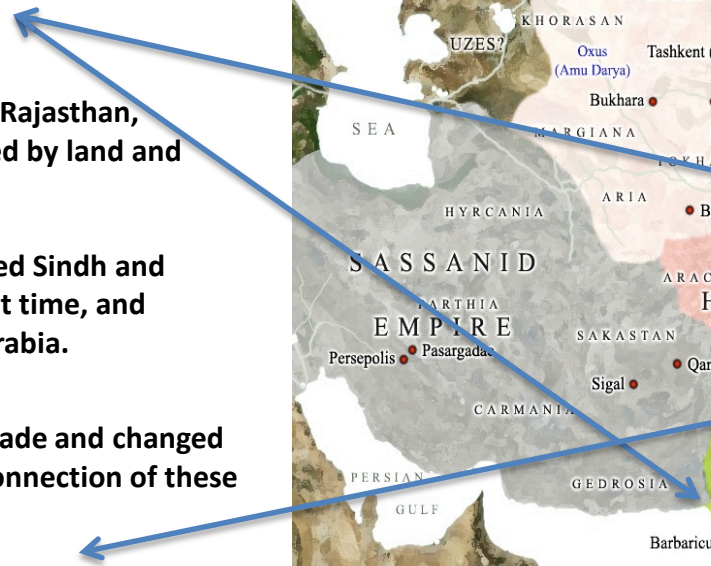
Afghanistan, Punjab, Kashmir, Rajasthan, Multan and Sindh were invaded by land and sea.

The Arabs came by sea, invaded Sindh and Multan; they settled for a short time, and then many returned back to Arabia.

This blocked the pathway to trade and changed the historical memories and connection of these areas.

New cultures formed, building on Buddhism and integrating Islamic thought and religion.

From this time on many invasions from the North West took hold.



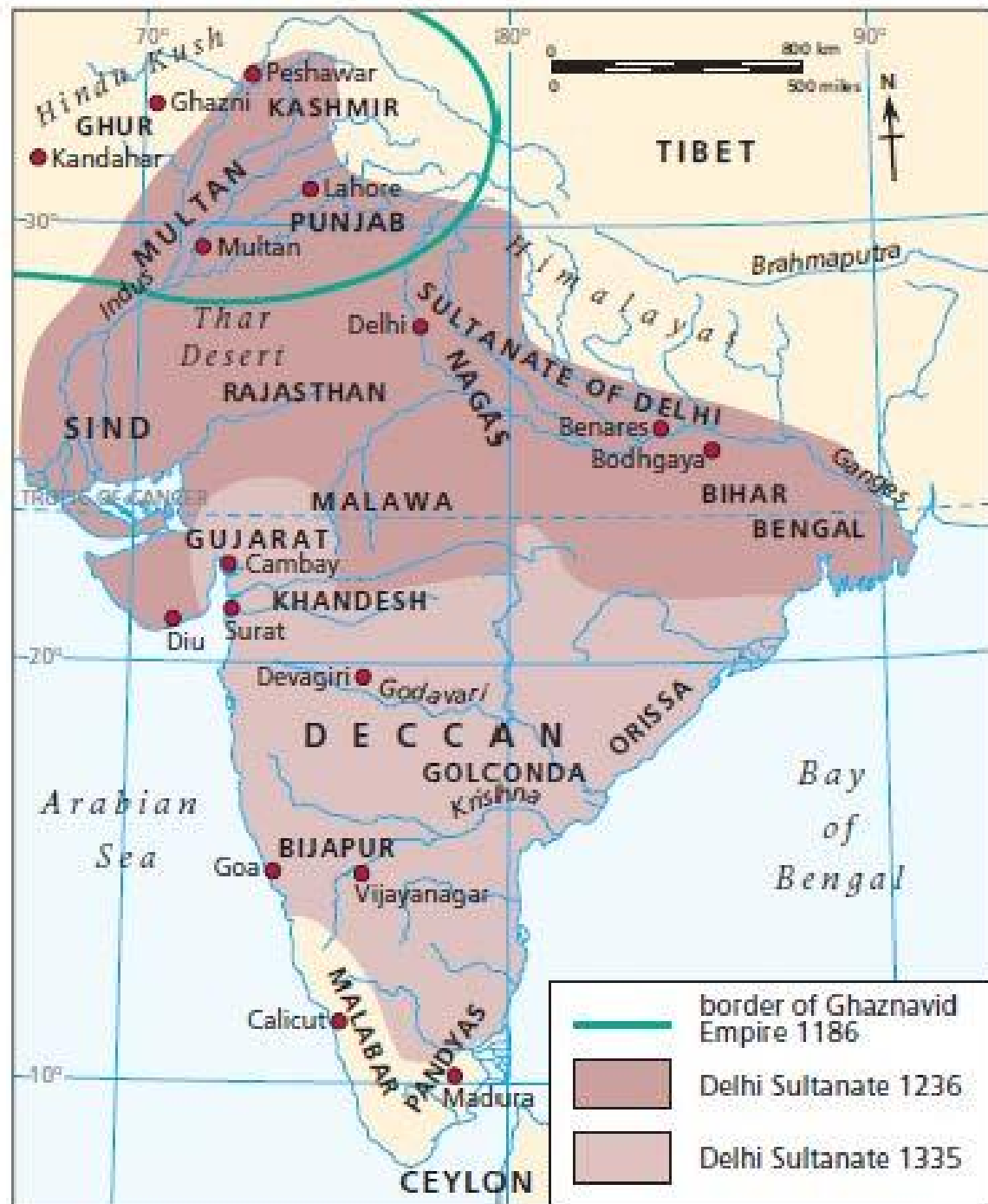
Invasions into the Indian Subcontinent

Muslim Rule In Sub-Continent

- Conquest of Sindh -----in 712 AD
- Post Muhammad Bin Qasim--(715--1206 AD)
- Ghaznavid Dynasty -----(977--1186 AD)
- Ghurid Dynasty in Sub-continent--from 1192 AD

Delhi Sultanate (05 Dynasties)

- The Slave Dynasty -----(1206--1290 AD)
- The Khilji Dynasty -----(1290--1321 AD)
- The Tughlaq Dynasty -----(1321--1412 AD)
- The Sayyid Dynasty -----(1414--1451 AD)
- The Lodhi Dynasty -----(1451--1526 AD)



People of the Indian subcontinent



People lived in
State
regions:
mountains
forests
villages
towns
cities

Caste

Caste Divisions

- Brahmins
- Kshatriya
- Vaisya
- Sudra
- Jhat
- Untouchables
- Tribals
- Forest Dwellers
- Hunter Gatherers

Positions in Social standing

- Priests
- Kings and Senapathis
- Businessmen
- Farmers/Crafts
Men/laborers/Artisans
- Mixed Caste
- Women/part of castes
(ruled under patriarch norms).

People were involved in Agriculture and Trade

Agriculture

- Land cultivation
- Crop Diversity
- Irrigation
- Exports expand
- Large surplus produced

Trade

- Production Diversity
- Assembly line production
- Technology

- The traditional village economy was stable and expansive, not effected by the market
- Trade was affected by internal and worlds market events

Food Economy and Socialization

Food in Daily Life. About half the people ate rice as a staple diet; the rest subsisted on wheat, barley, maize, and millet, resulting in major geographic differences in diet. Just as fundamental was the division between those who ate meat and those who were vegetarian.

Food Customs at Ceremonial Occasions. Every caste, tribe, town, village, and religion had a panoply of traditional ceremonies that were observed with wide participation. Most of these ceremonies had a religious basis, and the majority were linked with specific deities

Gift Economy customary Land holdings. In an economy based on agriculture, the land ownership was the key to survival and power. Some land holding began to break down by 6th century: Brahmins, Senapathi's, and Merchant Guild Masters were gifted large land holding by Kings. It is at this point that rural serfs begin to emerge.

Symbols of Stratification. Many symbols of class differentiation existed, because each caste had its own persisting subculture. Where individuals and their families fit into this class stratification could be gauged accurately from their dress, names, local dialect, the deities they worshipped, who they ate with publicly, where they lived, and their occupation.

The Relative Status of Women and Men The common Indian family in a village, as well as the gender relationships within it, were "Patriarchal". This was true in all family systems except the matrilineal system of the indigenous people, and of hunter gatherers as well as forest dwellers. A woman had to first obey her father, then her husband, and then her son; this was the normal pattern as she went through life. The opinion of the male head of household was especially important in arranging marriages, because in most religious communities these were effectively marriages between two families. Since the male head typically controlled the family's finances, he paid or received a dowry at the time of a child's marriage. Although older women could be very influential behind the scenes, they wielded little legal authority in matters of property and marriage.

Universities and Vocational Schools

Universities

- Takshaashila 6th century BCE - 5th century CE.
- Nalanda 427 – 1192CE.
- Vikramashila 783 – 820CE.
- Valabhi 6th century CE– 12th century CE.
- Samapura 6th century CE– 12th century CE.
- Jagaddala 1077 – 1120CE.
- Odantapuri 6th century CE – 12th century CE.
- Funded by the State and Kings

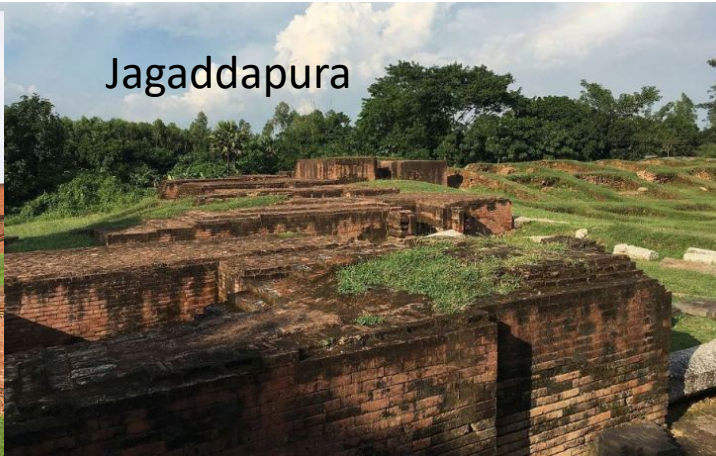
Vocational Schools

- Thousands of schools In every Region, were close to villages, and were run by Artisans and Masters Guilds
- Individual Masters in villages
- Apprenticeships
- Funded by the Trade Guilds

Somapura

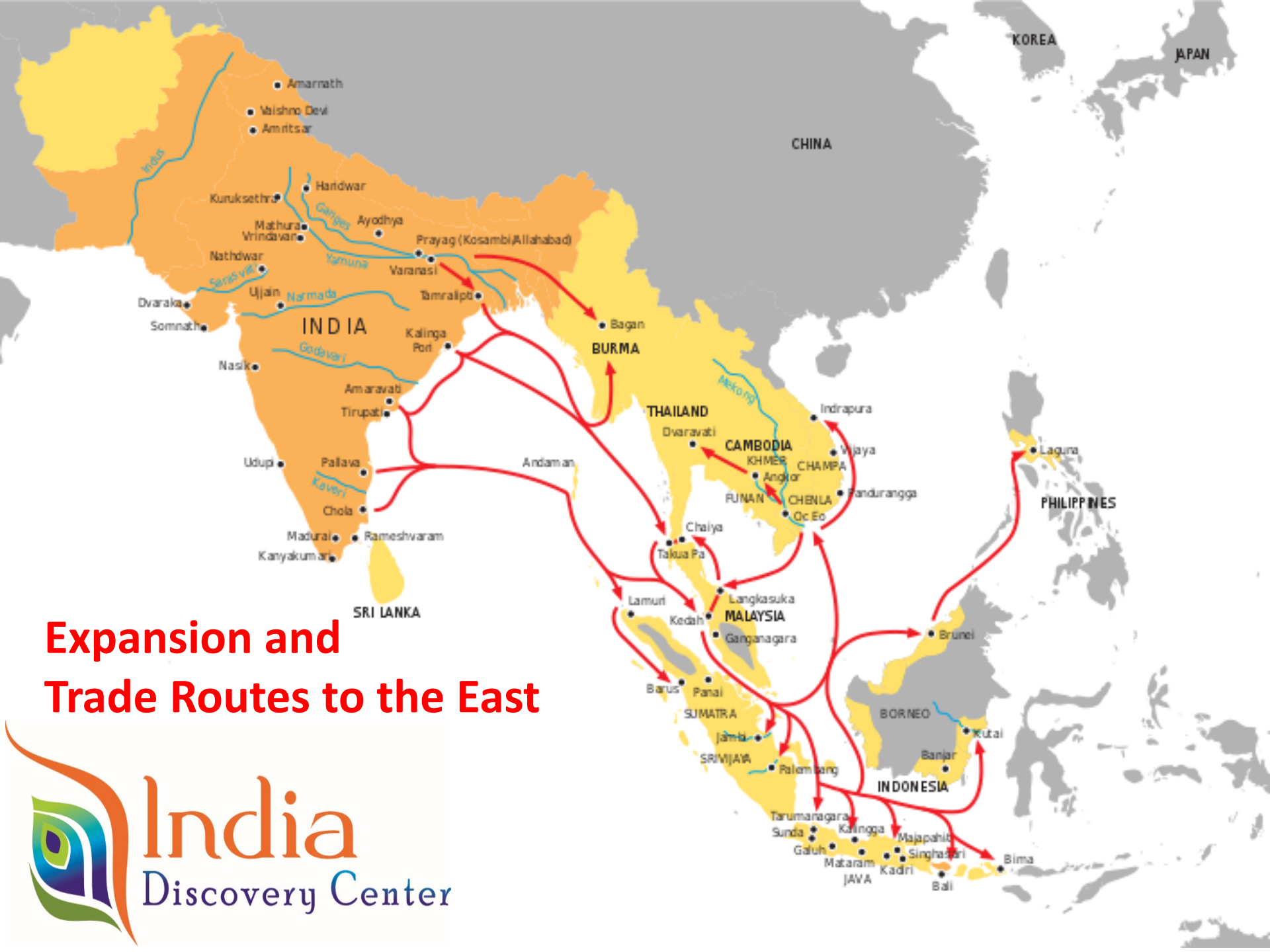


Jagaddapura



Odantapuri





Expansion and Trade Routes to the East

Agriculture/Exports

areca nuts



betel leaves



cotton



sugar



Coconut tree



Commodity manufacturing of coconut and oranges in the Peninsula became important in the 10th Century

Ginger



Orange tree



Spices as Commodities



Internal trade also expanded, diets changed from boiled food to spicy food, creating an explosion of tastes.



Regional Foods



Tamil Nadu
banana leaf



Karnataka masala dosa



Kerala Meat Dish



Punjabi saag and maki ki Roti



Afgan Chapli Kaba



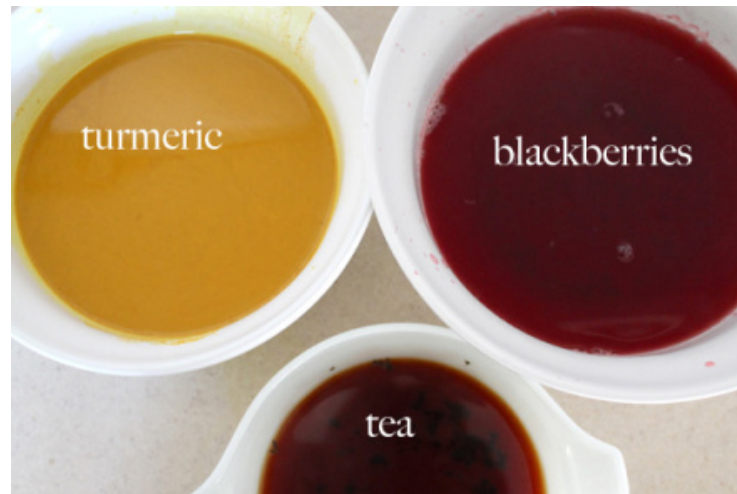
Bengali thali

This was the time of agricultural growth and diverse foods and spices were grown and eaten

Cotton Yarn Color Technology

Cotton cultivation possibly began in the Indian Subcontinent.

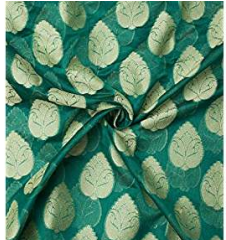
Cotton was traded to China, Europe and other parts of the world.



- Coloring cotton involved bonding the dye to the fiber to absorb the dye.
- Treated with a variety of substances, so the desired color ingredients could penetrate the fiber and become permanently insoluble.
- Treatment of fabric by the Mordanting Technique gave the Indian Subcontinent mastery of the process.
- Mordanting centres existed in Gujarat, Masulipatnam, Kalahasti, Pulicat and Tanjore.
- The artisans developed and perfected various techniques of dyeing decorative patterns on cotton using vegetable colors.

The Sari: cotton and silk

Fabrics



Chanderi Silk

Maheshwari Cotton
Madyha Pradesh



Banarsi Butti
Cotton



Pochampally cotton
Andhra Pradesh



Muga Silk
Assam



Rajkot Cotton
Gujarat



Kanjeevaram Silk
Tamil Nadu

styles



Wool and Embroidery: Kashmir and Ladakh

Pashmina and Kasmere shawls made in Kashmir, Ladakh and Nepal



Goats in these regions develop a uniquely soft pashm (inner coat) which is six times finer than human hair.



Wool was hand-woven



West: Afganistan, Punjab, Sindh Salwar Kameez Lehnga Kurdth Pajama Doti



Art

Cave Painting

Style and Design



Color



Ornaments

Ornaments included necklaces, anklets, rings, bangles, pectorals - made of Gold, Silver, copper, stones, lapis-lazulli, turquoise, amazonite, quartz.

Jewels



Jewelry



Jewelry (contd.)



Work, Society



- **Women and Sudras were the bulwark of this village society.**
- **Agriculturists, Artisans, Craftsmen, weavers, potters, smiths, carpenters were industrious. They were the producers of the wealth.**
- **Women took care of the extended family and also participated in agriculture and labor.**
- **The social status of women and Sudras eroded through religious pressure!**

Conclusion

- National wealth increased.
- Individuality produced new groups and castes.
- Caste disparity and repression developed.
- Economy gradually became unsupportive of people who created the wealth.

Question for future research

- Women
- Sudras
- Artisans

Were the bulwark of this economy, how could they have changed their position?

References

- Will give